CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A spacer for a fuel assembly of a boiling water reactor having a fuel assembly channel with an inner side, the spacer comprising:

a frame formed with outer webs and inner webs oriented crossways with respect to one another, said outer webs having an outer side facing towards the inner side of the fuel assembly channel in an assembled state;

gills formed on ~~an~~ said outer side of said outer webs and projecting outward to a given extent from said outer side, said gills each including an opening in said outer web defining an upper edge of said opening and an adjoining wall region of said outer webs both being pre-curved outward;

a plurality of projections each formed by an outward bulge in a wall of said outer webs, said projections each having a lower edge extending to and being identical with a lower edge of a respective one of said outer webs and projecting outwardly to a greater extent than said given extent of said gills, said projections each being disposed in a region of a respective one of said inner ~~web~~ webs; and

a deflector lug formed integrally on a lower edge of said projections.

Claim 2 (original). The spacer according to claim 1, wherein said projections are formed below said gills.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (previously presented). The spacer according to claim 1, wherein said inner web has a lateral edge and a first supporting section integrally formed on and laterally projecting beyond said lateral edge, wherein said first supporting section extends into and is connected to said projection.

Claim 5 (original). The spacer according to claim 4, wherein said inner web has a lower edge and a second supporting section integrally formed on said lower edge, said second supporting section having an inclined edge and a deflector lug supported against said inclined edge.

Claim 6 (original). The spacer according to claim 4, wherein said projection has an outer side formed with a recess, said recess extends in an axial direction and having formed therein a slot with said first supporting section at least partially penetrating through said slot.

Claim 7 (previously presented). The spacer according to claim 1, wherein said projections project outwardly to a greater extent than said given extent of said gills to prevent said gills from coming into contact with a channel of the fuel assembly.